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*BY ROB HAVENS '88*

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**On the Cover:** Alex Caruso gets a layup and the foul against UNI. Photo by Rob Havens '88.





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ATM TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

# Howdy Ags!

The last few weeks we have had some of the most exciting moments in Aggie sports history. It all got started when the Aggies men's basketball team beat the mighty Kentucky Wildcats in overtime in front of a huge crowd at Reed arena. The whole nation watched, including the College Game Day cast, as they hosted their telecast from the Aggies' basketball venue for the first time.

The men's team clinched a share of the SEC title and got to cut down the nets in front of the 12Th Man. They went on to make it all the way to the SEC Championship game but came up just short in a rematch vs. Kentucky. What an exciting time to watch Aggie Basketball. Covering the first two rounds in OKC was a thrill after not being in the Big Dance for a while.

The team did not disappoint as they took care of Green Bay in round one, setting up a second round matchup vs. UNI. Inside this issue you will read about the epic comeback and how the team overcame a twelve-point lead with 44 seconds to beat the Panthers. It was an incredible win that Aggies will remember for a long time.

The Aggie baseball team renewed it's rivalry with tu on a beautiful Tuesday night at Olsen Field. I hope you enjoy reading about the legandary game in this issue. When the Aggies were cruising to what looked like a 4-0 win, it was a lot of fun to watch. But when we lost the lead and Michael Barash hit a walk-off homerun to send the sips back to Austin, it was a game I'll never forget.

We were also fortunate to visit with Boomer White and share his story with you in this month's magazine. He has such a great story and I was excited to get to interview him. The senior third baseman was on a great baseball team at TCU but his heart was always in Aggieland. Listening to him share his thoughts on Texas A&M and his love for our school was really special.

Texas A&M wrapped up spring football and in our next issue we will share pictures from the Maroon & White Game. Inside you'll find pictures and updates from several of our spring sports. The Aggies have top 20 squads in almost every sport. Be sure and tell your friends and family about Aggieland Illustrated and if you haven't already, please follow us on twitter @aggiemag or on Facebook Aggieland Illustrated Magazine.



Gig'em Ags!

*Rob '88*



# Aggieland ILLUSTRATED

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snapshot







## goodbye to texas university...

Longhorn catcher, Tres Barrera, looks on the Aggie Baseball Team in disbelief as they celebrate Michael Barash's walk-off homerun at home plate. The Ags surrendered four runs in the top of the ninth, which tied the game and set the scene for the senior catcher's historic hit. Texas A&M hosted the first regular season contest between the rivals since the Aggies left for the SEC, winning 5-4.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.









## salute to 41...

Texas A&M Baseball honored President George H.W. Bush at Blue Bell Park on Saturday, March 5th. The Aggies donned red, white, and blue uniforms as they took on President Bush's former team, the Yale Bulldogs. The crowd was the second largest at Olsen Field since the reconstruction, and they got to see the 41st president throw out the first pitch to both team's catchers.

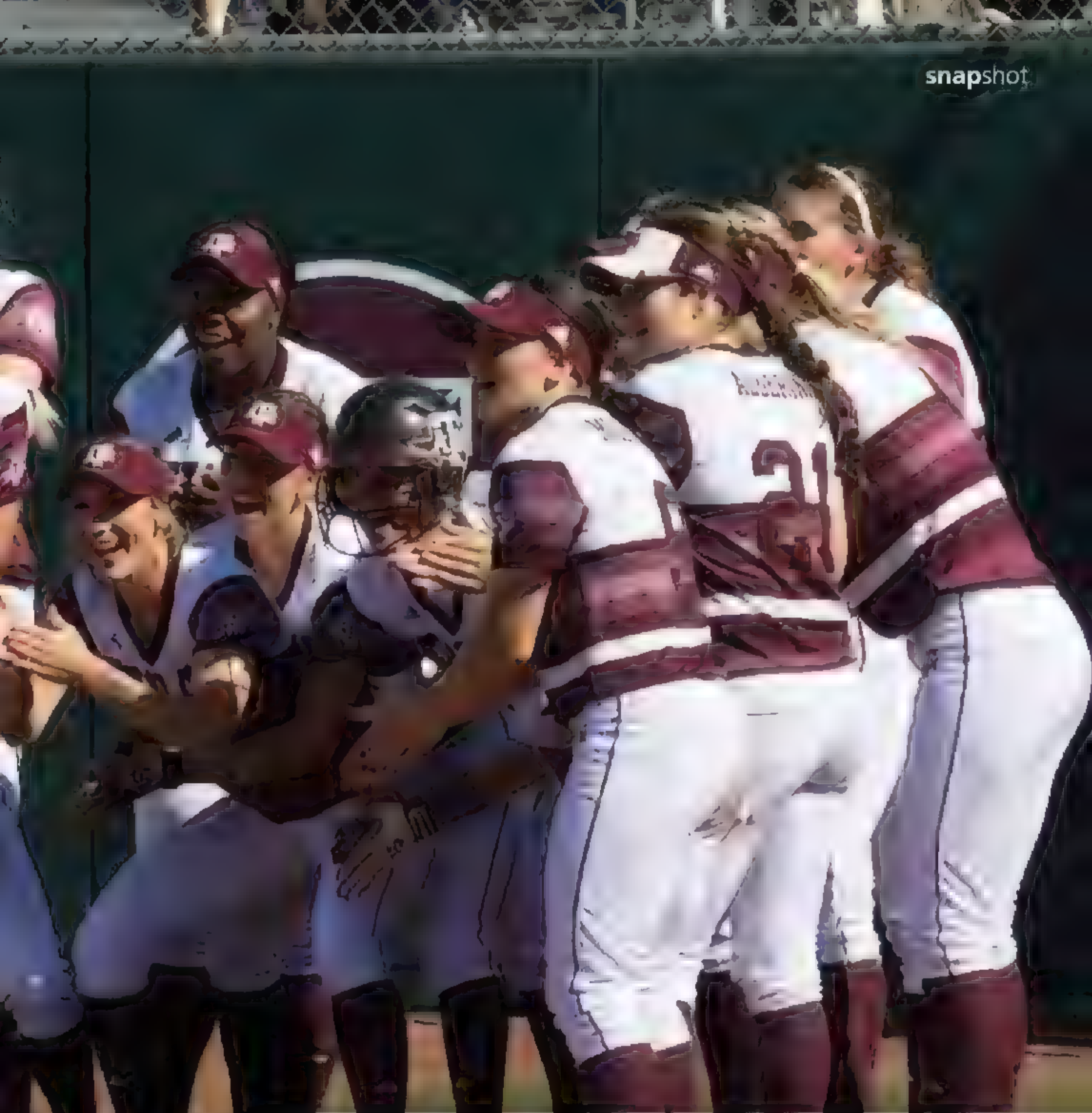
Photos by Rob Havens '88.







snapshot



## welcome home...

Ashley Walters trots around the bases and into the arms of her teammates after her two-run homer vs. Arkansas. The sophomore catcher had a career outing going 3-for-3 at the plate with six RBIs. It was her fourth homerun of the season. The Aggies beat the Razorbacks 9-1 and completed the sweep.

Photos by Sarah Pyatt '14



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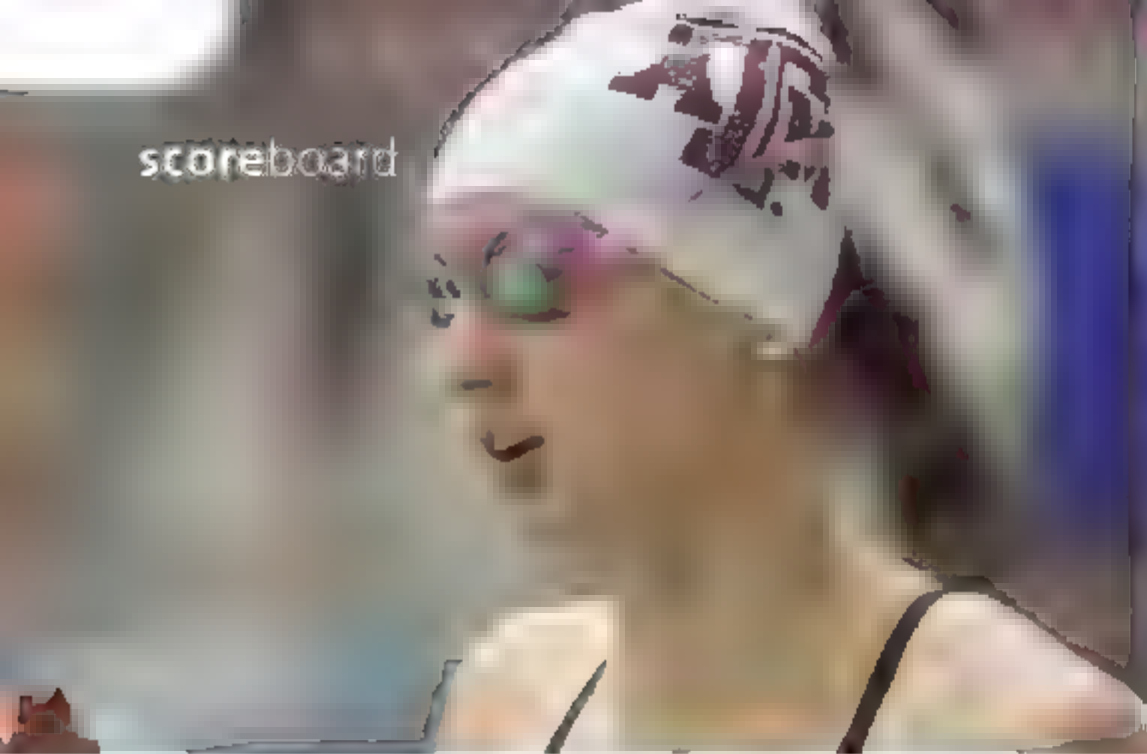




**[football]** The Aggies had a lot of work to do this spring with a change at offensive coordinator. Noel Mazzone not only had to install his new offense but also had to figure out who would be under center. With the departure of Tra Carson and three of our offensive linemen, he also had to make decisions on who would fill those holes. Coach Chavis, in his second year at A&M, had some holes to fill as well but things are looking bright as his players have a whole year of experience under their belt. Special teams spots at kicker and punter were also big, as Taylor Bertolet and Drew Kaser have moved on.







scoreboard



**[women's swimming & diving]** The Texas A&M Women's Swimming & Diving team matched its program-best fourth-place finish for a fourth straight year at the 2016 NCAA Championship. The team was seeded to finish sixth coming into the meet but with strong performances and some school record breaking times, the squad posted a solid fourth place finish.



**[men's basketball]** The 2015-2016 basketball season will go down as arguably the best year in the history of the program. The Ags went 28-9 and matched the best showing ever by advancing to the Sweet 16. Seniors Alex Caruso, Danuel House, Jalen Jones, and Anthony Collins provided leadership and the veteran play required to propel the team to the third round of the NCAA tournament. The Aggies finished the year ranked #12 in the Coaches' Poll. The season was highlighted by big wins over Texas, Gonzaga, Baylor, & Kentucky.



**[track & field]** The Men's Track & Field team had a second place finish at the SEC Indoor Championship. They went on to finish ninth as a team at the NCAA Indoor Championship in Birmingham. The women's team finished seventh at the SEC Indoor Championship, and now both teams shift their focus to the outdoor season.

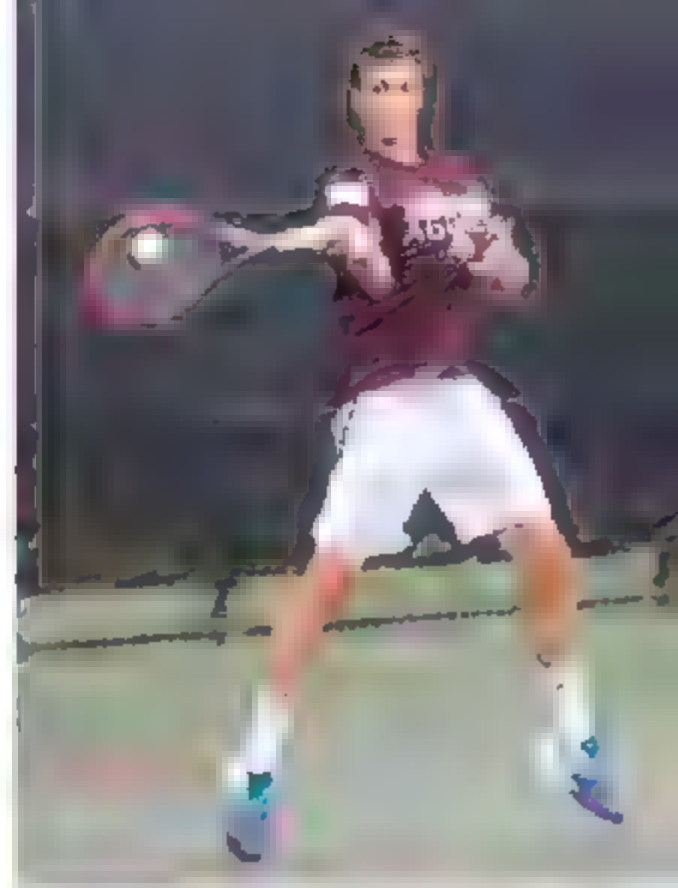
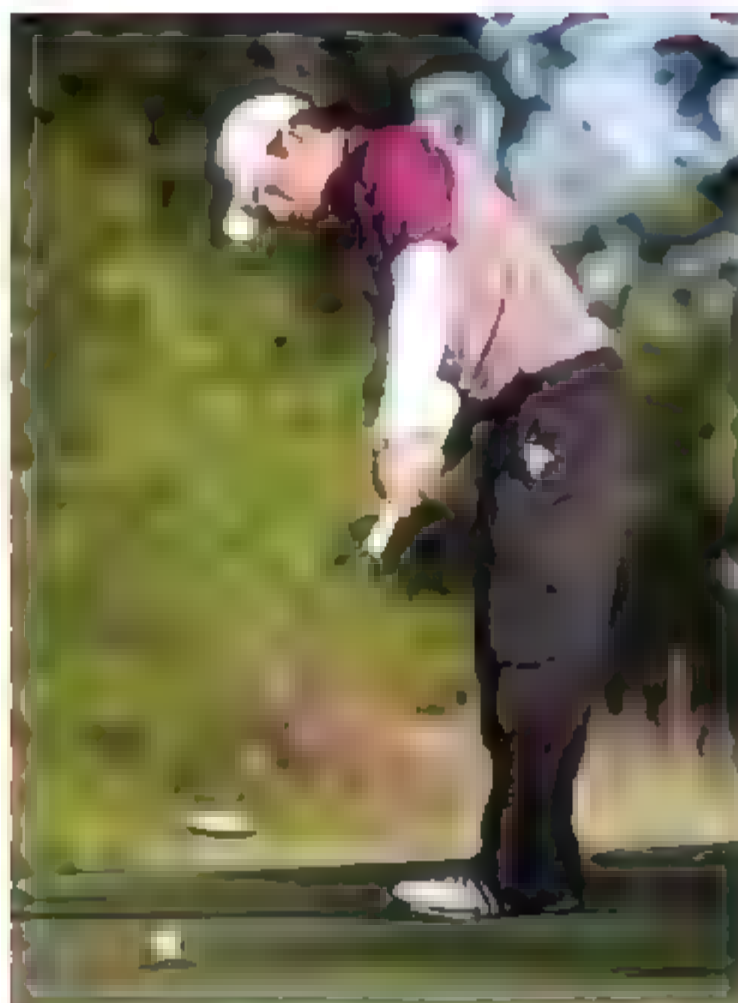






**[women's tennis]** The Ags have faced six of the top ten teams in the nation this spring in one of the toughest schedules in the country. The highlight so far has been a 6-1 victory over #8 South Carolina in Columbia. The team will compete in the SEC tournament in Baton Rouge, LA and then it's on to the NCAA tournament in May.

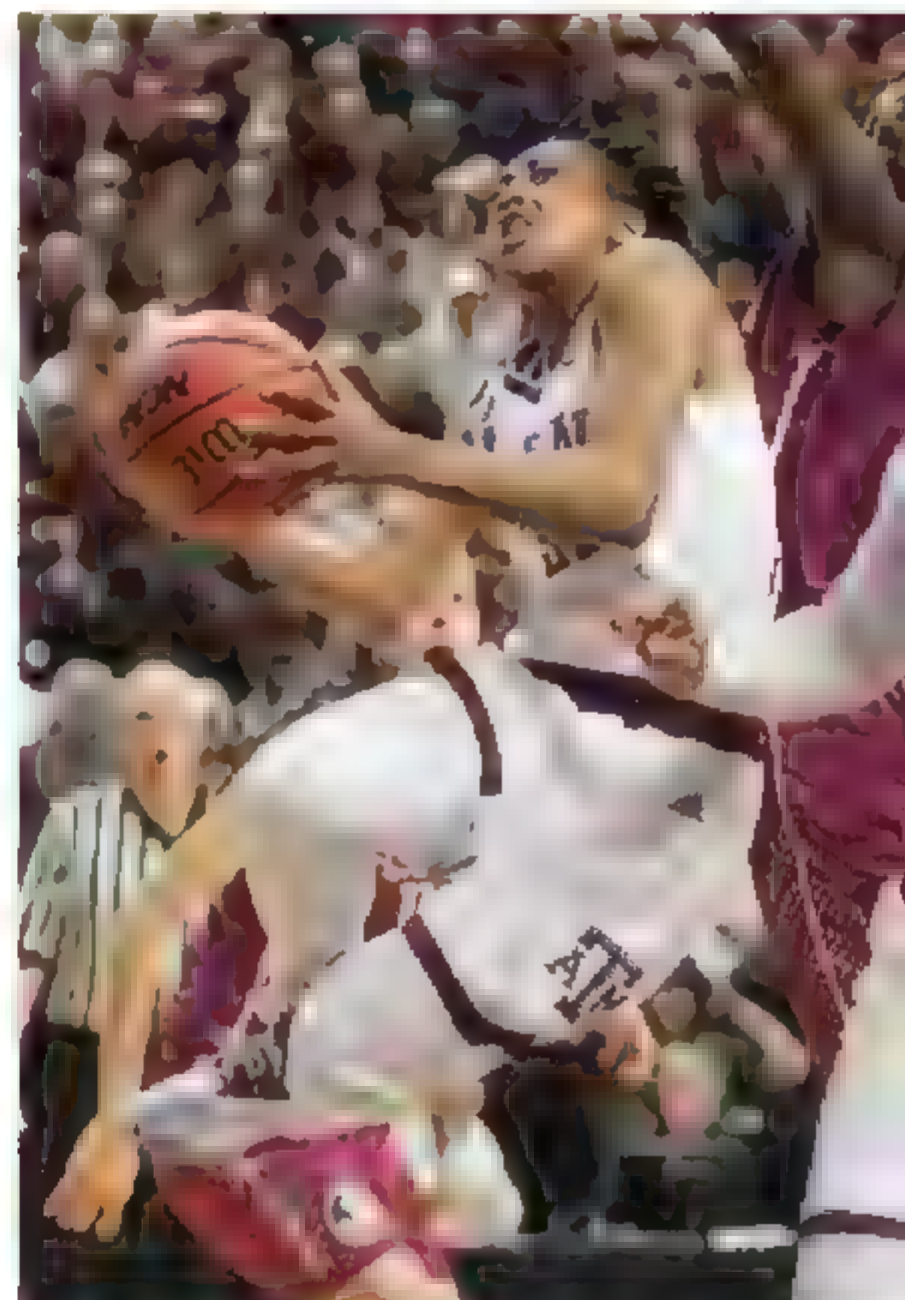
**[men's golf]** The team has had four top five finishes this spring, including a tournament championship at the Desert Mountain Intercollegiate in Scottsdale, Arizona. Senior Ben Crancer also won the individual championship in Scottsdale, as the veteran player posted a -8 for the tourney, securing his second career victory.



**[men's tennis]** Aggie Men's Tennis team has put together another stellar campaign with a top ten squad that is competing for a high seed in both SEC and NCAA tournaments. Sophomore Arthur Rinderknech leads the team with 11 match wins over ranked opponents. The team has four victories over top twenty teams including a 4-2 match win over #4 Baylor.



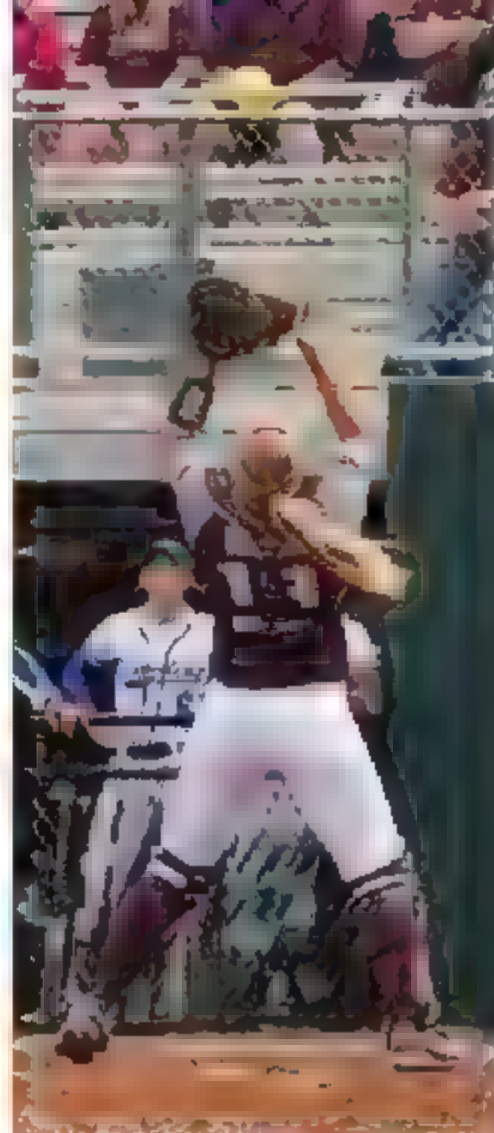
**[women's basketball]** The Aggies wrapped up the regular season, winning six of their final seven games. They earned a four seed in the NCAA tournament and hosted the first two rounds. The ladies defeated Missouri St. in the first round, which set up a second round matchup with #10 Florida St. Courtney Walker scored 18 points against the Noles, giving the senior the career record for most points by an Aggie player. Unfortunately the Ags struggled against FSU and fell by the score of 74-56 to end their collegiate careers of Courtney Walker, Jordan Jones, Chelsea Jennings and Rachel Mitchell.







**[softball]** Texas A&M softball charged out of the gate this season, notching a 27-3 record, which included a series win over #4 LSU. The club climbed all the way to number four in the polls after tracking up wins over five top twenty teams. The young squad is in the middle of the SEC gauntlet and has the talent to make waves in the post season.



**[baseball]** It looks like this could be the year that Aggie Baseball will make a return trip to Omaha. With a wealth of talented arms on the mound and a batting lineup that can hit from one through nine, this year's team has the talent and experience to compete for a National Championship. The Ags have already spent time at #1 this year and took two of three from LSU to add to their resume.



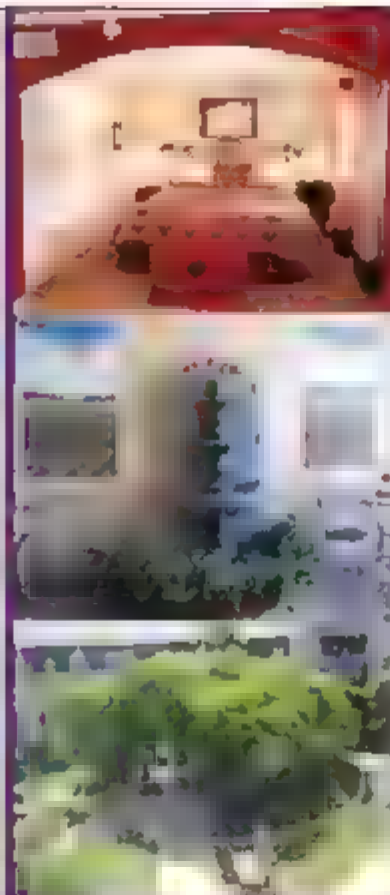




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# 2016 RECRUITING CLASS

## Austin Anderson

**POSITION** OL **HEIGHT** 6'4" **WEIGHT** 292  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Mineola  
**HOMETOWN** Mineola, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** District 8-3A Co-MVP, District Offensive Line MVP, Second Team All-State, USA Today All-USA Texas Second Team **CHOSE A&M OVER** Ole Miss, Auburn, Texas

*Anderson helped lead Mineola to back-to-back Region 2 Championships.*

## Riley Anderson

**POSITION** OL **HEIGHT** 6'5" **WEIGHT** 295  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Mineola  
**HOMETOWN** Mineola, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** District 8-3A Co-MVP, Second Team All-State, USA Today All-USA Texas Second Team **CHOSE A&M OVER** Ole Miss, Auburn, Texas

*Anderson helped lead Mineola to back-to-back Region 2 Championships.*

## Rakeem Boyd

**POSITION** RB **HEIGHT** 6'0" **WEIGHT** 200  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Stratford  
**HOMETOWN** Houston, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 19 5A District MVP, First Team All-State, First Team All-Greater Houston **CHOSE A&M OVER** Arizona State, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska

*Boyd rushed for 6,436 yards and 80 touchdowns in his career. Rushed for 2,519 yards and 29 touchdowns as a junior after rushing for 1,621 yards and 19 scores as a sophomore.*



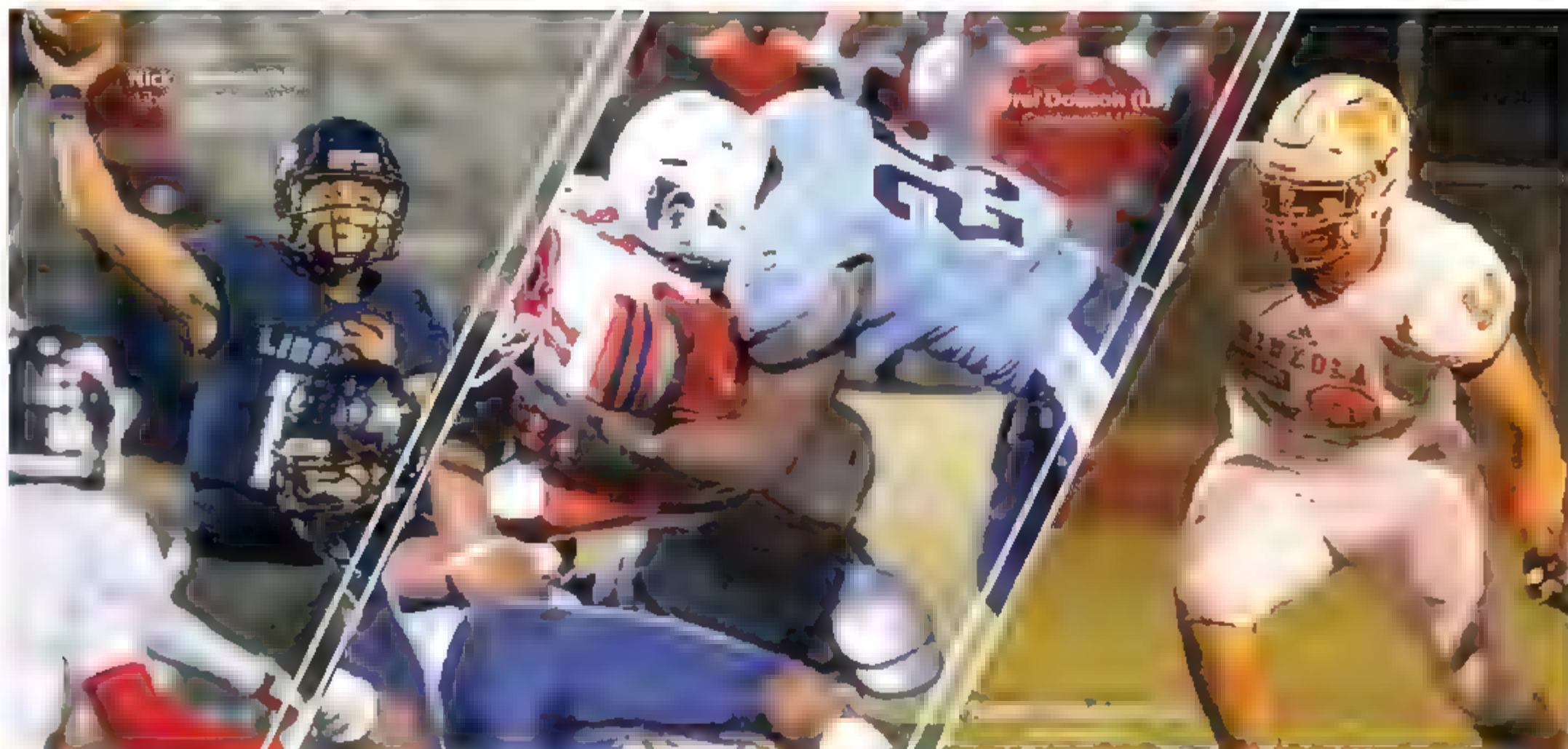


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## Clifford Chattman

**POSITION** DB **HEIGHT** 6'5" **WEIGHT** 180  
**HIGH SCHOOL** McDonogh 35  
**HOMETOWN** New Orleans, LA

**SUPERLATIVES** 4-Star: EPSN, 3-Star: 247Sports, Rivals, Scout **CHOSE A&M OVER** Florida State, LSU, Miami, Oklahoma, Ole Miss, South Carolina

*Chattman recorded 74 tackles and three interceptions as a junior. He was a first team all-district selection as a safety. His commitment on signing day was huge for the Aggies, after he was verbally committed to Florida St.*

## Clyde Chriss

**POSITION** WR **HEIGHT** 6'0" **WEIGHT** 175  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Warren Easton  
**HOMETOWN** New Orleans, LA

**SUPERLATIVES** 2013 Class 4A LHSAA quarterfinals, 2014 Class 4A LHSAA finals, 2015 Class 4A LHSAA semifinals, 2015 Times-Picayune All-New Orleans Best Receiver **CHOSE A&M OVER** LSU, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Nebraska, Texas Tech

*Chriss was ranked as the 11<sup>th</sup> best player in Louisiana and had 24 scholarship offers, including 8 from other SEC schools.*

## Quartney Davis

**POSITION** WR **HEIGHT** 6'2" **WEIGHT** 181  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Langham Creek  
**HOMETOWN** Houston, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2015 17-6A First Team All-District (offense & defense), 2015 Second Team All-Greater Houston **CHOSE A&M OVER** Baylor, LSU, Michigan State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Ole Miss, Texas Tech

*Davis made 53 catches for 961 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2015, and also contributed a pair of kickoff return scores. In 2014, Davis posted 35 catches for 901 yards and eight touchdowns.*

## Kellen Diesch

**POSITION** OL **HEIGHT** 6'7" **WEIGHT** 283  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Byron Nelson  
**HOMETOWN** Trophy Club, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2014 Second Team All-District, 2015 First Team All-Area, 2015 5-6A First Team All-District, 2015 First Team All-USA Texas **CHOSE A&M OVER** Oklahoma, Baylor, Arkansas, Texas

*Diesch led Byron Nelson to playoffs in 2015 where they lost to eventual Regional Champs Allen High School.*

## Tyrel Dodson

**POSITION** LB **HEIGHT** 6'2" **WEIGHT** 235  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Centennial  
**HOMETOWN** Franklin, TN

**SUPERLATIVES** 2014 11-AAA Defensive MVP, 2015 5A First Team All-State, 2015 All-Area Defensive MVP, 2015 First Team All-USA Tennessee Football Team **CHOSE A&M OVER** Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri

*Dodson recorded 111 tackles, 32 of which were for a loss, eight sacks, two interceptions, and two defensive touchdowns. On offense, Dodson had over 500 receiving yards and scored 16 touchdowns.*

## Travon Fuller

**POSITION** DB **HEIGHT** 6'0" **WEIGHT** 170  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Athens  
**HOMETOWN** Athens, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2014 4A All-State Honorable Mention, 2015 8-4A First Team All-District, Offense-Defense All-American Bowl participant **CHOSE A&M OVER** Stanford, Baylor, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas Tech

*Fuller, during his senior campaign, recorded 54 tackles, two interceptions, one forced fumble and seven pass breakups. He had seven interceptions during his junior campaign.*



## Aaron Hansford

**POSITION** ATH **HEIGHT** 6'2" **WEIGHT** 210  
**HIGH SCHOOL** St. John's College  
**HOMETOWN** Washington, D.C.

**SUPERLATIVES** 2015 Under Armour All-American, 2015 First Team All-USA Today  
**CHOSE A&M OVER** UCLA, Florida, Georgia, Michigan State, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oregon

*Hansford played linebacker and wide receiver in high school. He was ranked as the second best player in Washington D.C.*

## Trevor Knight

**POSITION** QB **HEIGHT** 6'1" **WEIGHT** 207  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Reagan HS / U. of Oklahoma  
**HOMETOWN** San Antonio, TX

*Knight, a post-graduate transfer from the University of Oklahoma, will be eligible to play at Texas A&M immediately. A fifth-year senior, Knight started 15 games at quarterback for the Sooners, including two bowl games. He passed for more than 3,000 yards and had 25 TD passes in three seasons of action, while also rushing for more than 800 yards. As a junior, Knight completed 22 of 40 passes for 305 yards and two touchdowns in six games. As a sophomore, Knight was a finalist for the Wuerffel Trophy, named to the Capital One Academic All-District team and Academic All-Big 12 First Team, played in and started in 10 of 13 games, passed for 2,300 yards and 15 touchdowns on 179 of 316 passes and also added 339 yards on the ground, named Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week, Manning Award Star of the Week and Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award National Player of the Week after accounting for six touchdowns (3 rushing and 3 passing) against Iowa State.*

## Justin Madubuike

**POSITION** DL **HEIGHT** 6'3" **WEIGHT** 245  
**HIGH SCHOOL** McKinney North  
**HOMETOWN** McKinney, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2014 5A All-State Honorable Mention, 2014 29-5A Defensive MVP, 2014 Collin County Defensive Player of the Year, 2015 Preseason Defensive Player of the Year, 2015 Army All-American Game  
**CHOSE A&M OVER** Auburn, Baylor, Colorado

*Madubuike adds great depth to Texas A&M's defensive ends group. He was ranked as the 10<sup>th</sup> best player in the state of Texas and the No. 5 defensive end in the Class of 2016.*

## Braden Mann

**POSITION** PK **HEIGHT** 5'11" **WEIGHT** 185  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Cypress Fairbanks  
**HOMETOWN** Houston, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2014 Kohls Kicking All-American Punter, 2014 First Team All-Great Houston, 2014 7-6A First Team All-District, 2015 7-6A First Team All-District, 2015 Under Armour All-American, 2015 First Team All-USA Texas

*Mann connected on 7 of 10 field goals and averaged 45.0 yards on punts as a senior.*

## Ryan McCollum

**POSITION** OL **HEIGHT** 6'5" **WEIGHT** 275  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Klein Oak  
**HOMETOWN** Spring, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2015 15-6A First Team All-District, 2015 Preseason All-Greater Houston  
**CHOSE A&M OVER** Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas Tech, Houston

*McCollum helped take Klein Oak to the State Quarterfinals as a junior. He is ranked as the No. 12 offensive tackle in the Lone Star State's 2016 recruiting class. With his large frame, he still can add some weight and has the quick feet to play tackle for the Ags.*

## Ikenna Okeke

**POSITION** DB **HEIGHT** 6'3" **WEIGHT** 200  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Smyrna  
**HOMETOWN** Smyrna, TN

**SUPERLATIVES** 2015 First Team All-Area, 2015 6A First Team All-State, 2015 First Team All-USA Tennessee  
**CHOSE A&M OVER** Notre Dame, Stanford, Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Georgia Tech, Penn State

*Okeke played both sides of the ball as a senior. On offense, he caught 68 passes for 849 yards including two touchdowns. On defense, he broke up seven passes, hauled in two picks, and recorded 74 tackles.*







PHOTO COURTESY OF SIOBHAN PHOTOGRAPHY

## Kendrick Rogers

**POSITION** WR **HEIGHT** 6'4" **WEIGHT** 185  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Frankston  
**HOMETOWN** Frankston, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2014 8-3A First Team All-District, 2015 Preseason First Team Super Team, 2015 8-3A First Team All-District  
**CHOSE A&M OVER** Cincinnati, Houston, Louisiana Tech, Memphis, Mississippi State, SMU

*Rogers rushed for 589 yards and eight touchdowns and he reeled in 29 catches for 558 yards and six touchdowns on offense. On defense, he recorded 101 tackles and had five interceptions, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and three defensive touchdowns. As a junior, Rogers had 57 catches for 1,045 yards and 10 touchdowns.*

## Charles Oliver

**POSITION** DB **HEIGHT** 6'2" **WEIGHT** 185  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Fairfield  
**HOMETOWN** Fairfield, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 4A Second Team All-State, 7-4A First Team All-District, Army All-American, Second Team All-USA Texas **CHOSE A&M OVER** Baylor, Iowa, SMU, Texas, Tulsa

*Oliver rushed for 1,775 yards and 22 touchdowns as a senior. As a junior, Oliver rushed for 1,830 yards and 18 scores, while contributing 34 tackles and five broken up passes on defense. As a sophomore, Oliver rushed for 869 yards and three touchdowns, had three kickoff return scores and also broke up six passes.*

## Colton Prater

**POSITION** OL **HEIGHT** 6'5" **WEIGHT** 280  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Airline  
**HOMETOWN** Bossier City, LA

**SUPERLATIVES** 2014 5A All-State Honorable Mention, 2015 5A All-State Honorable Mention, 2015 First Team All-USA Louisiana Team **CHOSE A&M OVER** Houston, Kansas, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, TCU, Utah

*Prater played tackle for Airline High School but should move inside for the Aggies. He was a mid-term enrollee, allowing him to get to work with Coach Turner right a way.*

## Moses Reynolds

**POSITION** ATH **HEIGHT** 6'2" **WEIGHT** 180  
**HIGH SCHOOL** John Jay  
**HOMETOWN** San Antonio, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2014 27-6A First Team All-District, 2015 Preseason First Team All-Area, 2015 27-6A First Team All-District **CHOSE A&M OVER** Baylor, California, Houston, Kansas, Missouri, TCU

*Reynolds passed for 815 yards and seven touchdowns and rushed for 962 yards and 12 more scores as a senior. He also contributed 304 receiving yards and two touchdowns, as well as three interceptions on defense. As a junior, Reynolds surpassed the 1,000 yard mark in rushing and receiving with 1,510 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns and 1,248 passing yards and 12 scores.*

## Alton Robinson

**POSITION** DL **HEIGHT** 6'3" **WEIGHT** 228  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Converse Judson  
**HOMETOWN** Converse, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2015 6A All-State Honorable Mention, 2015 Second Team All-USA Texas, 2015 Preseason First Team All-Area **CHOSE A&M OVER** Alabama, Baylor, California, Michigan, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas Tech

*Robinson recorded 44 tackles as a senior, with 23 of them coming in the opponents backfield. He made 12 quarterback sacks and forced four fumbles.*

## Nick Starkel

**POSITION** QB **HEIGHT** 6'3" **WEIGHT** 185  
**HIGH SCHOOL** Liberty Christian  
**HOMETOWN** Argyle, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2015 TAPPS Division 1 All-District Honorable Mention **CHOSE A&M OVER** Oklahoma State, Tulane, UCLA, Yale

*Starkel completed 202 of 364 passes for 3,091 yards along with 29 touchdowns as a senior. As a junior, Starkel passed for 1,609 yards and 19 touchdowns on 106 of 160 passes.*

## Trayveon Williams

**POSITION** RB **HEIGHT** 5'9" **WEIGHT** 179  
**HIGH SCHOOL** C E King  
**HOMETOWN** Houston, TX

**SUPERLATIVES** 2014 5A All-State Honorable Mention, 2014 Second Team All-Greater Houston, 2015 15-5A District MVP **CHOSE A&M OVER** Arizona State, Colorado, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, TCU, Texas, Texas Tech

*Williams rushed for nearly 4,000 yards and over 40 touchdowns his last two seasons. He is responsible for 1,409 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns, along with 18 catches for 243 yards as a senior. He was the district leader in rushing yards and touchdowns. As a junior, Williams rushed for a whopping 2,391 yards and 25 touchdowns on 240 carries and caught 20 balls for 411 yards and five scores.*





# "The

The last regular season match up between the Aggies and the Longhorns on the diamond was in the spring of 2011, when the Ags were still a part of the Big 12 conference. The two schools battled at a neutral site during the 2014 NCAA Regional but this would be the first time the rivalry would be renewed on one of the team's home field. It was a beautiful Tuesday night in Aggieland and parking lots were filled as

Aggie fans holding general admission or grass seat tickets arrived early to claim a good spot. It definitely brought back a lot of memories as I walked from the far side of Reed to Blue Bell Park seeing traces of burnt orange scattered amongst the sea of maroon clad fans headed to the game.

A sold out crowd definitely had some extra fire in their bellies as they sang the Aggie War Hymn in the presence of the foe the song is about. Five years removed from playing the Longhorns in conference play hadn't had an effect on the burning desire the 12<sup>th</sup> Man had to BTHOU. As the teams took the field and the fans erupted in applause, it was obvious this was no normal Tuesday night game.





# Walk-Off

Sophomore Brigham Hill took the mound and showed a lot of confidence as he only faced four batters in the top of the first allowing only one hit and getting his team off the field. As he came back to the dugout and found a seat on the bench, his teammates walked up and gave him encouragement, which turned the serious look on his face into a relieved smile. What a gutsy performance he had as he continued to mow down Texas hitters over the next six innings allowing no runs and giving up six hits and a walk in the biggest game of his life.

On the offensive side the team scored two in the third after the Aggies had loaded the bases. Hunter Melton hit a grounder deep in the hole on the first base side and a poor decision plated two as the second baseman threw to an uncovered first base. J.B. Moss & Nick Choruby scurried home to put the good guys up 2-0. The Aggies continued to roll in the fourth as Michael Barash reached first after being hit by the pitch. Joel Davis stepped up and launched the first pitch he saw over the right field fence extending the lead to 4-0.

It seemed like the Ags would cruise to a shut-out win as they took the field in the top of the ninth, but the Horns were

not ready to go home. Ryan Hendrix took the bump in his second inning of work and gave up a double, hit a batter and walked a third before being pulled from the game. Turner Larkins came on in relief and surrendered a two run double to Koby Clemens. A pop-up and a strikeout later and it appeared Larkins would finish out the game. But the Horns got another walk loading the bases and Bret Boswell grounded a ball through the left side plating two more and tying the score.

The capacity crowd held their breath as Mark Ecker ran in from the bullpen to try and close out the inning. He was greeted by Tres Barrera, who sent a moonshot toward the leftfield wall sending a hush over the partisan crowd. Fortunately for the Ags, a strong wind held the ball up and it fell harmlessly into the glove of J.B. Moss short of the warning track. All of the momentum Texas A&M had built over the first eight innings was gone and the Longhorn dugout was rejuvenated.

In what has been a longtime tradition at Olsen Field, the 12<sup>th</sup> Man saw'd off the Horns in between innings and Michael Barash headed to the plate in the bottom of the ninth. It appeared the Aggies talented catcher would be the first out of

the inning as he popped up a pitch just past first base in foul territory. But two Longhorns chasing it down let it fall in between them giving Barash new life. The senior made them pay two pitches later as he hammered a ball deep into left. It curled in the wind around the foul poll into the Rec Center construction site setting off mass hysteria in the stadium. Barash raced around the bases threw off his helmet and jumped into the waiting arms of his teammates at home plate.

A celebration ensued on the field and in the stands. Bubbles filled the air and a few "Horns Down" signs were directed at the Texas dugout. The Texas players took exception to that and the two teams had to be separated before anything serious went down. As chants of "SEC" rained down from above, the Longhorn players filed into their locker room and the Aggies continued to celebrate on the field and in the stands. It was a great moment in Aggie sports as 7,000 fans watched a state rivalry renewed. Michael Barash cemented his legacy in the history of Aggie lore. First there was "The Shot" by Ace Law, and then "The Drive" with Stephen McGee, and now "The Walk-off" by Michael Barash.





# 44 SECONDS

**Before the 1980 United States Olympic Team** skated in the Miracle game against the Soviet Union, their coach Herb Brooks told them, "Great moments are born from great opportunity." With 44 seconds left in regulation against UNI, the Aggies were faced with a "great opportunity". As UNI fans celebrated and some of our fans headed for the exits, our team decided that they were not ready for their season to end. What happened next was the greatest comeback with less than a minute in NCAA basketball history.

Texas A&M was down 69-57 with

one timeout remaining. Senior Matt Bohannon suffered a leg injury in the final minute sending the Panthers designated inbounds player to the bench. The Aggies initiated an aggressive full-court defense making the loss of Bohannon a major factor in the contest.

The comeback started when freshman Admon Gilder rebounded a Caruso missed three pointer and laid the ball back in to bring the Aggies within ten points. The Aggie defense was stellar over the next 30 seconds stealing inbound passes, forcing turnovers, and hitting huge shots to bring the Aggies within two points with only 11.8 seconds to go.

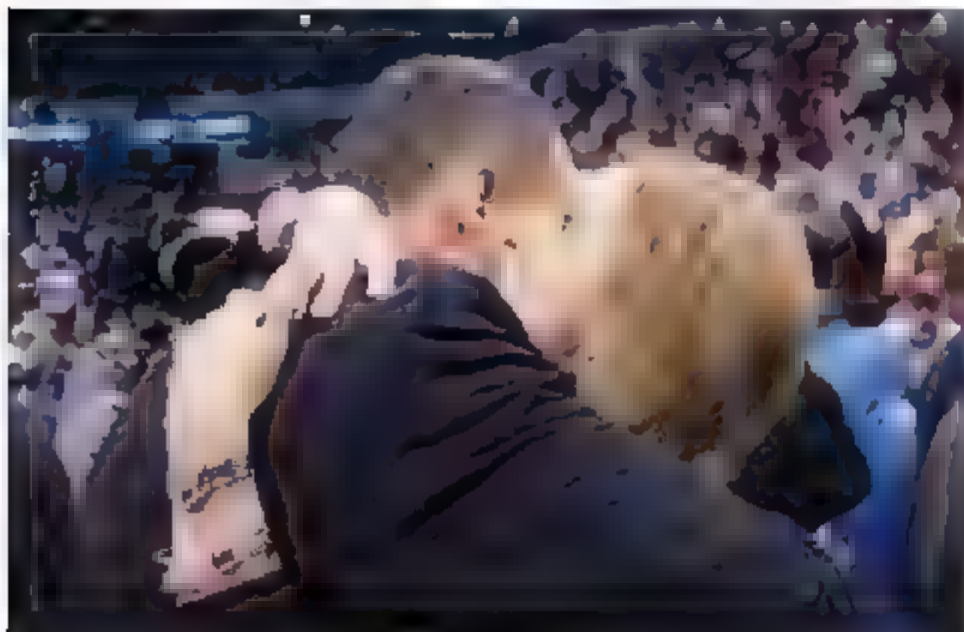
Jones, House, and Caruso all scored big buckets while Trocha and Gilder's defense gave the Aggies a chance to tie the game up.

Down 71-69, the Panthers threw the ball in to their senior point guard, Wes Washpun, who was immediately

trapped in the corner by Gilder and Trocha. As the seconds ticked down and our defense swallowed him up, Washpun made a desperate attempt to throw the ball off of Gilder's foot. Admon grabbed the ball and drove down the baseline avoiding a defender and released a circus layup that kissed off the glass and found the bottom of the net. The Aggie bench went crazy and Coach Kennedy pleaded with the guys to get back on defense as UNI had 1.9 seconds to launch up a game-winning goal. The team, coaches, and fans held their collective breaths as Washpun's three quarter court shot bounced off the glass as time expired.

Two days before, this same UNI team had ripped the hearts out of the University of Texas team by hitting a half court buzzer-beating shot. Now the Panthers were heading toward their team huddle wondering what had just happened. While the Aggies danced and hugged on the sideline, our fans cheered and cried in the stands after watching the most epic comeback in NCAA history.

The first overtime saw the lead seesaw back and forth as the UNI players continued to hit three pointers. Daniel House heated up by scoring eight of the





teams twelve points in overtime. With 20.2 seconds left in the first overtime and the Aggs trailing 83-81, Caruso took matters into his own hands taking the clock down and then driving into the lane putting up a jumper that tied the game with 5.9 seconds. The Panthers were unable to score on a half court shot and the game went into a second overtime.

With both teams exhausted, they started the second overtime and the Aggies refused to let the game slip away. They grinded through the extra period and took the lead for good when Jalen Jones had a put back bucket with 3.10 left to give the Aggies a 85-84 advantage. House, Gilder, and Hogg all scored in the second overtime frame, giving the Aggies the points they needed to seal the victory. House dribbled out the final three seconds as the Aggie bench stormed the court and the fans danced in the stands in celebration of the 92-88 win.

In a TV interview right after the game a reporter asked Coach Kennedy, "With 44 seconds in regulation how did you come back?" He replied, "To God be the glory, that's all I can tell you. That's a blessed win!" As the seconds clicked away you could almost hear those historic lines from Al Michaels calling the "Miracle Game on Ice" "Do you believe in miracles? Yes!"

As Herb Brooks told his players,

"Great moments are born from great opportunity." The Aggies took their opportunity and had the greatest comeback with less than a minute in NCAA basketball history. It resulted in a trip to the Sweet 16 but it's a "Great Moment" that they will never forget. The twelve-point deficit they overcame in 44 seconds may be the greatest comeback for a long time.







# BOOMER WHITE

## **When did you first start playing baseball?**

I've been playing for as long as I can remember. I was probably 3 or 4 playing t-ball at the Post Oak League near my house.

## **When did you start thinking about Texas A&M?**

It's been instilled in me for as long as I can remember. I grew up with my Godparents, now I call them my Grandmom and Poppy. They were my next-door neighbors and he was a yell leader here. That was the school that was pushed upon me to love. My dad went to Missouri, and I guess I kind of liked that for a little bit but I didn't get a lot of attraction for them. A&M was always it! I came up for games, my first football game that I attended I was probably 6 or 7 and it was against Missouri, which is the only way I got to go with my dad. I just grew up hating Texas, loving A&M, and that's just the way it was. I feel like everyone was a Texas fan when I grew up, I was the minority I felt like, but it's been my school since I can remember.

## **Tell me about your recruitment in high school and deciding to go to TCU.**

I feel like my love was always towards A&M but when my recruiting came around it was kind of what was the best fit for me. I guess that is a good way to look at it. But I still wish I would have stayed sold out on A&M. I know they had a lot of guys in the incoming class before me that played the position that I played at the time, which was catcher. I know Coach Seely knew who I was, and we knew each other but he didn't really recruit me too hard. At the time TCU just seemed to be the best fit and I guess I just decided that's where I wanted to go. I didn't really look at it from the love of the school viewpoint; it was just where do I want to play baseball. I soon found out that college was much more than just baseball and playing a sport and that wasn't really where I wanted to be, and that's when the decision to come to A&M was implemented.

## **When did you make that decision?**

The thought came into my mind during

the back end of my sophomore year at TCU. People have such a hard time believing the timing because we were playing so good at that time. That just shows it was more than baseball, because baseball was going outstanding and I loved my team and I loved my coaches. But it was just something tugging at me that I didn't want to spend the back half of my college career, two more years or three more years at a school that I wasn't happy at. So, I finished the season and gave everything I had for TCU. It was an outstanding season and we played great but at the end of it at the end of the season I made the decision with my dad that despite the consequences or having to sit out or everything, I was going to have to go through that I wanted to be at a place that I loved. My brother was coming here, he had just got accepted it was just a love for the school that really took over and I got to play baseball here, too. So it was kind of the best of both worlds.

## **Tell me about the year that you had to sit out.**

It was really different. I thought I



was going to be ready for it, people had warned me that it was going to be really different, unlike anything I had expected. But the coaches were outstanding. I participated, I got to lift with the team, I played fall ball with the team, and I scrimmaged with them. I batted three hole, for goodness sake. I don't know why they put me there knowing that I wasn't going to play, but I was just another guy on the team. When we found out I wasn't going to get to play, I believe it was over last Christmas, we were all sad but it's something I had to deal with something I was prepared for. It was my time. I ended up having surgery on something I needed to get fixed in my shoulder. So it was time for me to heal up and get ready for summer ball. I went up to Cape Cod and played for a couple of months and didn't play as well as I had the summer before. Probably because of the time I had taken off but it definitely geared me up to come back and try to have a successful season this year.

**Was just being a student at A&M everything that you'd hoped it would be?**

Oh yeah, people ask me that all the time. That's the one question I get from umpires and other players, friends and fans. Was it worth it? It's worth every second, there's no doubt. I love everything about the university. The campus is gorgeous. It's the friendliest place on earth. This season has already been one to remember, an outstanding one, one of a lifetime. Putting it all

together, having my family here all the time. Being able to go home when I need to. Having friends come watch me play more than when I was at TCU. Family members coming down, you name it. Being with my brother, us raising a dog. Just the little things are what really take over that I wouldn't have had at TCU. Then you just look at the season and I know that's what this is about, it's amazing. The season's already been outstanding we are not close to being done. We feel like we have a long ways to go and we're trying to make it one to remember.

**Tell me about your first game here and the homerun you hit during your first at bat.**

There were jitters leading up to it. Some teammates came up to me that had played and said hey I don't know what your thinking but this may be an atmosphere that you haven't experienced. They said, "I know it's better or different than the one at TCU so I just hope your ready." I laughed it off. I've played in the College World Series, so I didn't think anything could surprise me. But there was like 7,000 or 7,500 fans here and I was nervous, but also excited. I was thankful that the time had finally come. Playing the game just kind of took over and it felt second nature. I didn't really think about how I was going to do. If I was going to go four for four, or go zero for four, or anything like that, I was just excited to finally be playing in front of the 12thMan that I grew up watching. I just

so happened to run into a ball up and in and the wind happened to be blowing out that day and it just carried over the fence. And it was a big moment, a lot of people think it was bigger than it needs to be, but it was really cool. I don't hit a lot of homeruns. My first swing was a homerun at A&M. So it's definitely something I will never forget.

**Do you remember going around the bases?**

Oh yeah! A lot of times in a big moment it's a blur or you black out or your just kind of going through the motions and not realizing what's going on but I don't know if I'll forget any bit of that at bat, to coming around, to getting knocked in the face and the bloody nose and all that. It was a special moment, no doubt.

**So a few days ago you received your Aggie Ring, how was that?**

It was awesome! It couldn't come soon enough. I've been waiting. Obviously I grew up around the Aggie Ring but I finally got to order it a couple of months ago. I got the calendar that they give you and I've been watching the count down to the final day. It was a little emotional, I went to dinner with my grandfather, who was the yell leader and he presented it to me in front of some of my friends, so it was really cool. It only comes off when I come out here on the field. So, I have that thing with me at all times. I'm just honored to be able to wear it.





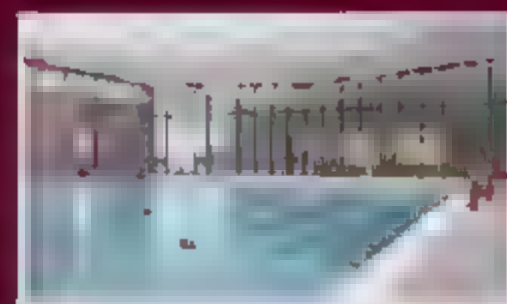
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## Archery Club

BY ROB HAVENS '88

The Texas A&M Archery Club has won seventeen National Championships and will compete for number eighteen this May at the Outdoor Collegiate Nationals, hosted by Michigan State.

Ferris Bavousett came to A&M in 1977 to start an archery program, and in 1981, Frank Thomas took over the team and has coached it ever since. One of the most highly decorated teams on campus, the Archery Club has set the bar high when it comes to expectations and winning.



The team is comprised of approximately fifty members and currently has two of the best in the country. Carly Warren is currently ranked number one in the nation in the Women's Bowhunter Division, while Joel Taylor ranks as the best in the Men's Bowhunter division. Club president Brooke McGee says, "They are both extremely dedicated shooters, and we have high hopes for their futures in the sport."

McGee joined the team during the first semester of her freshman year. She told AI, "A&M can be intimidating at first, so joining a team helps with the adjustment." Some members join the club to enhance their shooting skills, but McGee indicated that others aim to shoot professionally or even go to the Olympics. The club has even hosted the Olympic Trials for Archery on campus in 2012 and 2016. The Archery Club has had previous members compete on Olympic Teams for the United States.

Club members are required to practice four times a week during the spring. According to Brooke, "Dedication and practice are the keys to being a great archer." One of the main things these athletes have to master is being able



to stay calm and focused in high stress situations. "A lot of archery is more mental than it is physical."

The club recently hosted the Indoor Nationals here in College Station. McGee says, "All of our archers did an excellent job and are now in the running for All American later on in the spring." The Aggies' biggest rival is the University of Texas, but the team competes with clubs from all over the nation, and it is a very competitive sport.

McGee has enjoyed her time in the club and treasures the relationships she has built over the years. Her favorite moments have been traveling with the team to Outdoor Nationals, which allows the team members to get to know each other better and build lifelong bonds.

## Pistol Team

BY ROB HAVENS '88

With our beloved university's great military history, it's really no surprise that pistol shooting, in some form, has taken place via military or Corps of Cadets organizations on campus for over one-hundred years. In 1974, Coach Curtis Burns '52 started the current version of the Pistol Team after realizing there was not a competitive pistol shooting club offered on campus. Over the past forty-plus years, the club has continued to grow into one of the most successful sport clubs at A&M.

We asked two-time All American and club president, Payton Duvall-Freymueller, about her experiences since joining. She told us, "Being on the Pistol Team was the best thing that happened to me in

college. I couldn't have picked a better club to get involved with. This team has taught me a great deal about hard work, determination, leadership, and how to bounce back from having a bad match and other difficult situations. My entire life, I was told I was not athletic. I was always too small or too weak to be good at sports. With the Pistol Team, that didn't matter anymore. I am now a nationally ranked Olympic-eligible athlete. For me, the best part of being on this team is the way it has helped shape me into a more confident person and a stronger leader."

The team typically has 12-20 members and holds practices five nights per week. They compete in four events: Air, Free, Standard and Sport Pistol. Payton told AI that the sport requires its members to have "...patience and determination



to train, improve, and reflect on their shooting experiences," and that after you master the fundamentals, it becomes "strictly a mental game."

Based on the results from the last couple of years, it looks like the team is pretty tough mentally. In 2015, the women qualified five shooters to go to Nationals for the first time in team history. The team placed fourth in the event. Jason Mathis '13 won the National Championship in Standard Pistol, and Payton finished second in Women's Air Pistol. In 2016, the club had its most successful Nationals in team history. The women's team earned second and third place in team competitions, and both squads earned individual medals and awards, showing the country how strong this club is on a national level.



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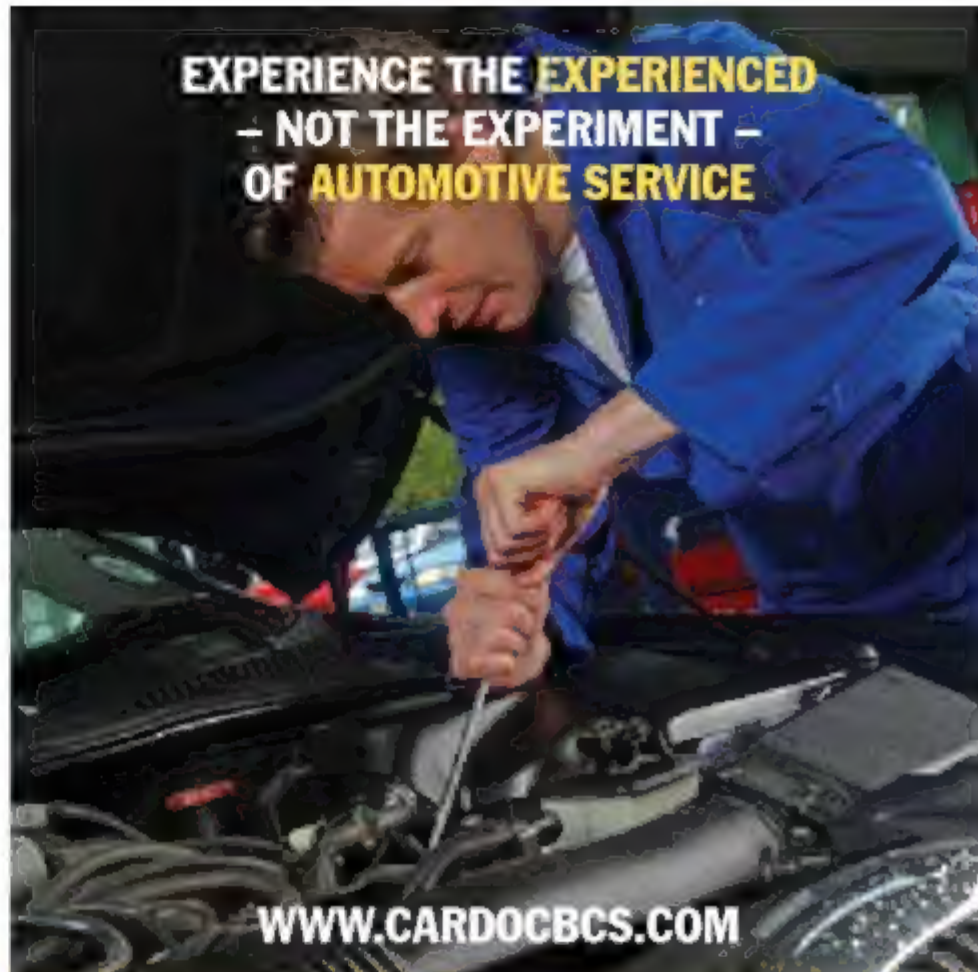
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